

Discussion Guide | Week of 10.19.2014

Vision & Discovery (5-10 Minutes)

1. The reason we gather is to help one another grow into *fully formed & passionately engaged* followers of Jesus. This is part of the great commission for all disciples of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).
2. Is there something that has helped you this past week to discover more of God? Yourself? Others? (For Example: Commontime Reading, L.T.G., Prayer, Sinful Patterns, Confession, Etc).

Scripture

Psalm 99

The Lord reigns! Let the peoples tremble. He is enthroned above the cherubim. Let the earth quake. **2** Yahweh is great in Zion; He is exalted above all the peoples. **3** Let them praise Your great and awe-inspiring name. He is holy. **4** The mighty King loves justice. You have established fairness; You have administered justice and righteousness in Jacob. **5** Exalt the Lord our God; bow in worship at His footstool. He is holy. **6** Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those calling on His name. They called to Yahweh and He answered them. **7** He spoke to them in a pillar of cloud; they kept His decrees and the statutes He gave them. **8** Lord our God, You answered them. You were a forgiving God to them, an avenger of their sinful actions. **9** Exalt the Lord our God; bow in worship at His holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

Group Discussion (10-15 Minutes)

When Jesus teaches his disciples to pray the Lord's prayer, he isn't giving them a magic formula to pray. Instead, Jesus gives them, and us, a structure for true Christian prayer; the kind of prayer that restores our true identity while also breaking into a divine Reality. When we liken the Lord's Prayer to a structure, or a tower, we realize that there are about six floors to this prayer. "Our Father" is of course the foundation, and "Make Your name Holy" is the first floor. When we pray for God's name to be holy we should know a couple things: a) The word Holy means 'set apart,' or enthroned, and b) God's name is always holy. In the Old Testament, God reveals his name as YHWH (or Jehova), which in most English versions is translated as Lord. Very simply, this name means "I AM" This is what he said to Moses when Moses asked his name. In essence it tells us that He is—He is all He needs to be, at all times, in all places, in all situations. In the N.T. the Son's name is Jesus (Jehova saves). Jesus also declares himself to be the great, "I AM (John 8:58)

1. How does the Lord's prayer differ from prayers we would form if left to ourselves?
2. Practically speaking, what ways does the Psalmist 'Hallow' God's name? What ways do you make God's name Holy in your head, heart and will?
3. Can you think of pictures or stories of Jesus from scripture that evoke the His Holiness? (Revelation 1:4-20, Revelation 2:18-29, or Revelation 5:1-14).
4. The Westminster confession states that Man's chief end is to 'glorify God and to enjoy Him forever'. If we made that our aim as a community how would it reshape the way that we lived?

Group Prayer (10-15 Minutes)

1. Either, Take time to adore Christ by praying some, "Jesus you alone are" prayers (e.g. king of kings, our good shepherd, living water, lamb of God who takes away my sin).
2. Or, use the following form of Lord's Prayer as a prayer guide to pray for the church.

Our Father In Heaven, Make Your Name Holy*Ten seconds of silence*

- Heavenly Father, today we pray for the saints in our congregation. We join with Your desire that we see You as a loving Father and ourselves as children of light. You have invested so much to bring us into Your family. Please let us give You a good return on Your investment. Let us be holy as You are holy. Let Your name be holy to each person in our congregation today. Let us reflect that holiness as a church to others so that You are more respected in our city.

Your kingdom Come, Your Will Be done*Ten Seconds of silence*

- And let your saints be more aware of and receptive to Your kingdom ways. Give us hearts to seek Your kingdom, eyes to see it and hands to serve it. Let us accomplish Your will in whatever situation we're in today and this week. Let us love in old ways and also in new ways.

Give us this day our daily Bread*Ten seconds of silence*

- Please provide for us all that we need. Give us what we need in the physical realm, financial realm, the emotional and relational realm, and especially the spiritual realm. But especially, give us more of Yourself today.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors*Ten seconds of silence*

- Give us a sensitivity toward sin so that we acknowledge it and turn from it quickly. Forgive us and help us forgive others who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation/trial, but deliver us from evil*Ten seconds of silence*

- Then lead us, your church as the True Shepherd leads his sheep. Take us, your church away from things that would harm both You and us. And take us toward You. And when we follow a path that would damage us and You, deliver us. Bring us back safely, and let us learn because of the experience.

Partner Prayer (10 Minutes)

Break into pairs of 2-3 to pray for one another. Before praying for one another, very briefly share the ways that the Holiness of God either needs to break through, or *is* breaking through in your life. If nothing else, pray for specific ways that each of you can glorify God and enjoy him in greater ways.

Personal Prayer

Begin and end each day with five minutes devoted to the Lords' prayer.

- Go to realityboston.com to download the Lord's prayer as a background on your phone.
- Read through the Commontime reading plan (also on RB website), and pray through the passages that stand out to you.
- Find 2 other people to that you can form a Life Tranformation Group with.